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lengthy instructions, but has rather sought to give a condensed statement of the results of an extended experience.

The book comprises instructions for collecting and skinning birds, making skins, mounting birds and making stands; also similar directions for collecting, skinning or preparing for the museum mammals as well as reptiles, batrachians and fishes.

The wood-cuts, though rude, are sufficiently well adapted for their purpose, and the book will be an indispensable guide to amateurs and useful even to experienced taxidermists.

SAUNDER'S INSECTS INJURIOUS TO FRUITS.¹—This is a well prepared and very useful compilation from the works of our economic entomologists, coupled with the results of the experience and observation of twenty years. The work is thoroughly well done, both as regards its simple, clear style, its freedom from technicalities, its abundant and well printed illustrations (but few being poor, though most of them are familiar) and the judicious directions for removing the pests. To the fruit-grower it will be a great boon. The book is so well calculated to meet his everyday wants, that the demand for it will be and should be ever increasing. In other words the book is destined to be the standard authority on this all-important branch of applied entomology.

Although the wood-cuts and source of information are acknowledged in the preface with every disposition to give full credit to the original authorities, yet we should prefer to see an occasional reference in the body of the work to the author from whom detailed statements are taken. The average fruit-raiser will not care, perhaps, to be troubled with such reference, still it is giving farther credit to an author who has worked laboriously upon the life-history and ravages of some insect, and lends additional authority to the author's statements. This is not said by way of criticism, for our genial friend, the author, has done himself very great credit in this work, and rendered excellent service to agriculture as well as to beginners in entomology.

MASON'S MINUTE STRUCTURE OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM OF CERTAIN REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS.²—This important work of Dr. J. J. Mason upon the minute structure of the central nervous system contains a magnificent series of plates, taken by the artotype process from negatives made by the author, illustrative of numerous reptiles and of the following batrachians: *Rana pipiens*, *R. hialecina*, *Menopoma allegheniense*, *Diemyctylus torosus*, and *Siren lacertina*. Twelve sections of the spinal cord of *Rana*, five of that of *Menopoma* and two of that of *Siren* are given. The substantia reticularis, a network of connective tissue peculiar to

¹ *Insects Injurious to Fruits*. By WILLIAM SAUNDERS. Illustrated with 440 wood-cuts. Philadelphia, 1883, J. B. Lippincott & Co. 12mo, pp. 436. \$3.00.

² *Minute Structure of the Central Nervous System of certain Reptiles and Batrachians of America*. Series A. By Dr. J. J. MASON. Newport, 1879-82.

the Batrachia, is well shown. It is noted that the relative thickness of the spinal cord in its anterior and posterior regions depends principally upon the extent to which the tail is developed. Five sections of the medulla oblongata, two of the cerebellum, seven of the optic lobes and eight of the cerebral lobes are given, also four of the nerve cells of *Rana*. The fullness of the oval formed by the spinal cord of *Rana*, in which the posterior fissure is little marked, contrasts greatly with the transverse enlargement and deep posterior fissure of the spinal cord of *Menopoma*. In the frog the cerebellum is placed vertically, and is independent of the optic lobes, while in the tailed Batrachia the latter seem to encroach on its substance. The writer disclaims sympathy with any theory which claims to distinguish between motor and sensory cells, and states that the hypothesis that the nuclei are the true functional centers of the nerve cells, is unproved.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

- Owen, R.*—Aspects of the body in Vertebrates and Invertebrates. London, Taylor & Francis, 1883. From the author.
- Hale, Horatio.*—The Iroquois Book of Rites. D. G. Brinton, Phila., 1883. From the author.
- Coburn, F. D.*—Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, for the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1881. Topeka, Kansas, 1881. From the author.
- S. A. Forbes.*—Studies of the Food of Birds, Insects and Fishes, made at the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History at Normal, Ill. 1883. From the author.
- Le Conte, Jos.*—On mineral vein formation now in progress at Sulphur Bank. Ext. Amer. Journal of Science.
- On the genesis of Metalliferous veins. Ext. idem., 1883. Both from the author.
- Müller, F.*—Die Verbreitung der beiden Viperarten in der Schweiz. Beiträge zum Nachtrag des Katalogs der herpetologischen Sammlung des Basler Museums. Basel, 1883. From the author.
- Dritter Nachtrag zum Katalog der herpetologischen Sammlung des Basler Museums. Amphibia und Reptilia. From the author.
- Credner, Hermann.*—Die Stegocephalen aus dem Rothliegenden des Plauen'schen Grundes bei Dresden. IV Theil. Berlin, 1883. From the author.
- Putnam, F. W.*—Iron from the Ohio mounds; a review of the statements and misconceptions of two writers of over sixty years ago. Cambridge, Mass., 1883. From the author.
- Davis, N. S., Jr., and E. L. Rice.*—List of Batrachia and Reptilia of Illinois. Bulletin No. 111. Chicago Academy of Sciences, 1883. From the authors.
- Doering, Adolfo.*—Informe Oficial de la Comision Cientifica agregada al estado mayor general de la Expedicion al Rio Negro. I. Observaciones generales sobre la Fauna del Territorio conquistado. II. Enumeracion Sistemática de las Especies observados durante la expedicion. III. Geologia.
- White, F. E.*—Is the Blood a living fluid? Ext. Medical Record, 1883. From the author.
- Benecke, K. A.*—Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Fauna der Slavonischen Paludinen-schichten. Separat-abdruck aus Beiträgen zur Paläontologie Oösterreich-Ungarns und des Orients. Wien. From the author.